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IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTION

REVIEW OF REPORTS BY DEVELOPED COUNTRY PARTIES ON MEASURES TAKEN TO ASSIST IN THE PREPARATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF ACTION PROGRAMMES, INCLUDING INFORMATION ON FINANCIAL RESOURCES THEY HAVE PROVIDED, OR ARE PROVIDING, UNDER THE CONVENTION

Note by the secretariat

Addendum

The following summaries have been prepared by the secretariat based on new contributions received after 2 July 1999. The full texts of the reports are available on the UNCCD Website (www.unccd.de).

France

French cooperation supports actions aimed at developing skills, knowledge and circulation of information regarding desertification control. Action in 1999 concerned: support for African environmental information systems (project to support meteorology in Africa of the African Centre of Meteorological Applications for Development (ACMAD)), in the amount of 8 million francs; the AGRHYMET programme of the Inter-State Committee on Drought Control in the Sahel (CILSS), in the amount of 11 million francs; and the DOSE programme of the Sahara and Sahel Observatory (OSS), with its ROSELT, IMAGES and SID/SISEI components, for an amount of approximately 14 million francs; the development of desertification research and development partnerships for an amount of 5 million francs; the institution of programme of annual training workshops on desertification for developing countries; support for the activities of OSS in the spheres of implementation of the Convention (1 million francs) and consolidation of desertification-control results (1.3 million francs); and mobilization of stakeholders through the holding of "desertification days" and the making of films on desertification problems (0.7 million francs).

To follow up these initiatives, France has established a National Scientific Committee on Desertification. In addition, France is a strong supporter of OSS, providing financing equivalent to 55 per cent of the Office's total activities. It has also striven, together with its partners, Germany and Sweden, and the assistance of international organizations such as the Sahel Club, to develop tools for use in helping to ensure that desertification control is taken better into account in our programmes and developing coordination as regards implementation of the Convention between our activities, those of other donors and those of affected African countries. The tools comprise a table showing donor support for implementation of the Convention and a table showing how projects fit into the CCD context.

Lastly, France facilitates access to the Global Environment Facility, especially in the case of desertification-control projects in Africa (approximately 44 million francs or nearly 40 per cent of commitments in sub-Saharan Africa). In addition, it has launched a regional initiative entitled "Global environment and desertification control in Sahelian Africa" (for an amount of 21.5 million francs), which is aimed at establishing a regional procedure for mobilizing GEF funds for the Sahel.

Italy

In September 1998, the Italian Government approved the use of US$ 600,000 in favour of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), to provide assistance to local governments in the process of formulating the national action plans (NAPs) in Cape Verde and Niger. An IFAD mission went to Niger in March 1999 in order to: (i) analyse the NAP formulation process and methodology, in relation also to the level of participation of civil society and the local community in the formulation phase; (ii) determine the needs for further assistance in the final achievement of the NAP at local level; (iii) identify possible activities that IFAD could support (environmental policies, financial mechanisms) as well as

pilot activities in the areas of intervention of ongoing projects financed by IFAD; and (iv) prepare a detailed work plan and budget for IFAD support in the same field over a two-year period (1999-2000).

An IFAD mission also went to Cape Verde in March 1999. Cape Verde was the first country in Africa to ratify the Convention and its NAP process is therefore considered to be one of the most advanced in the region. The IFAD mission report, however, has highlighted some shortcomings concerning the integration of the different components of the plan. It is recommended to: (i) continue the international assistance activities during the process of formulating the NAP; (ii) strengthen the local dimension of the NAP; (iii) develop local pilot activities to combat desertification as a preamble to the full-scale implementation of wider programmes, such as the Rural Poverty Alleviation Programme, which is coordinated by IFAD.

Japan

During the period from 1993 to 1998, Japan contributed almost US$ 5 million to the Trust Fund and the Special Voluntary Fund established by General Assembly resolution 47/188 of 22 December 1992. Japan has taken initiatives in the consultative processes and partnership agreements for development of Africa, such as: (i) providing support for the Asia-Africa Forum on Combating Desertification (which first met in Beijing in 1996, and then in Niger in 1997); and (ii) holding the second Tokyo International Conference on African Development (held in Tokyo in 1998). An overview of Japan's bilateral cooperation in supporting the preparation and implementation of action programmes at all levels is as follows: (i) establishment and strengthening of food security systems in the Central African Republic and the United Republic of Tanzania; (ii) promotion of alternative livelihoods in helping local people to improve facilities such as agricultural and other vocational training schools; (iii) improvement of the national economic environment aiming at the eradication of poverty and at ensuring food security in Burkina Faso and Niger; (iv) population family planning in Ghana and Kenya including promotion of maternal and child health; (v) conservation of water resources in securing a stable supply of fresh water in Kenya, Morocco and Senegal; (vi) reforestation and forest conservation in Benin, Mali and Senegal; (vii) agricultural development to secure water resources for agricultural production in Egypt, Malawi and Tunisia; (viii) development and efficient use of various energy sources in Cameroon and Zimbabwe; (ix) capacity building and education in agriculture and forestry and utilization of water resources; (x) support to women in Ethiopia and Mozambique in well-digging and vegetable cultivation; (xi) study and research on conservation of soil and water resources, agricultural development, socio-economic methods; (xii) support to activities of non-governmental organizations through grant assistance for grass-roots projects through the Japan Fund for Global Environment, Postal Savings for International Voluntary Aid and Japan International Forestry Promotion and Cooperation Centre.

Japan's support to international organizations was made through the following contributions: (i) to the Special Voluntary Fund and the Trust Fund (US$ 4,892,000 since 1994) in support of various meetings organized by the secretariat and the participation of developing countries in the Conference of the Parties; (ii) to the United Nations Environment Programme

(UNEP) activities to combat desertification and, in the form of data, to UNEP/GRID (Global Resources Information Database); (iii) to the core budget of and voluntary contributions to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) for activities in agriculture, forestry, and fisheries; (iv) to the World Food Programme (WFP), which provides emergency food assistance to people suffering from hunger due to the effects of drought; for a total of US$ 220 million to the International Fund for Agricultural Development by financing various agricultural projects which help prevent desertification of farmland; (v) to the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), which trains nationals from African countries by conducting pilot projects; (vi) to the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) regular budget and Voluntary Cooperation Fund, which support activities of various meteorological services through, inter alia, the World Climate Programme and the Agricultural Meteorology Programme; (vii) to the core budget of and voluntary contributions to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), which conducts the Man and the Biosphere programme, and its special programme concerning "Women and water resource supply and use"; (ix) to the International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research for research on crops suited to cultivation in the semi-arid tropics; (x) to the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) for developing environment-friendly and sustainable industry in Africa; (xi) to the World Bank, in particular to the Policy and Human Resources Development Fund established by the World Bank; (xii) to the Global Environment Facility (GEF) (approximately US$ 415 million to the first replenishment and approximately US$ 411 million pledged for the second); (xiii) to the African Development Bank, which aids projects such as a water supply project in Tunisia and an irrigation project in Zimbabwe.

Netherlands

The total Netherlands commitment to ongoing programmes and projects to combat desertification in Africa is f. 823 million, of which 27 per cent (f. 218 million) is allocated at the central (ministerial or departmental) level, and 73 per cent (f. 605 million) by the Netherlands embassies. The main sectors supported are: direct environmental protection, integrated rural development, and institutional strengthening. In countries like Burkina Faso and Mali, the Netherlands embassies are deeply involved in the implementation of national action plans, and regular consultations with the Government are held. In countries where the Convention is not an urgent issue on the national agenda, the embassies comply with the policy priorities of that country but encourage implementation of the UNCCD or support UNCCD-related interventions. In Burkina Faso, the Netherlands serves as the "chef de file" to facilitate the process. In two other countries, the Netherlands embassy is a member of the donor group on the combat against desertification. In some other countries, such as Mozambique, donor coordination is as yet unclear.

The Netherlands report suggests that the involvement of the local population and the civil society in the implementation of the Convention and the national action plans should be encouraged. There is particularly little participation of the private sector and social groups such as women, pastoralists and youth. The level of knowledge and awareness about the